

# Triple Play

By Hilary Daninirsch

Kitchen, master bath and laundry room combine rustic French and modern elements

Multiple finishes and materials in the kitchen, from the black granite center island to the beverage bar, provide contrast while maintaining an updated country look.



The custom range hood is the centerpiece of the completely revamped kitchen. Though it does not overpower the room, custom white cabinetry provides much-needed storage space, and the ample workspace can accommodate multiple chefs.



BEFORE

The homeowners had been living in their 3,600-sq.-ft. Prescott, Ariz., home for 15 years and were due for a complete home makeover.

While the house originally had been a spec home, and the owners did have some design input at the time of sale, they recently sought to radically transform the interior – taking it down to the drywall.

They engaged designer Christie Board, CKD, CBD, co-owner of 3board by Board, a construction and design firm, to help bring their vision to fruition. The recently retired husband and wife wanted to update virtually every room,

and despite the desire for high-end product selections and design choices, they wanted to keep the home feeling comfortable and welcoming.

The extensive project took about eight months, while Board converted the entire home from a high-country ranch to one with a rustic look with modern elements. She describes the end result as “a little French country with a little glam – simple but beautiful.”

The owner did not give Board a design brief; rather, the design evolved over time as client and designer worked together to create a beautiful

but homey renovation. Three particular standout rooms were the kitchen, master bath and laundry room.

## Cooking Kitchen

As in many houses, the kitchen is often the focal point of the home – a place for family and friends to gather. In their renovation, the homeowners wanted a better layout where people could congregate, as well as a functional space where two people could cook at the same time. They

also wanted better lighting, as well as to improve their storage space and update the size and quality of their appliances.

“I had a generous space, but I had to figure out how to get everything they wanted without moving the walls,” said Board, who added that where the current eating island sits was a “no man’s land,” a big empty space, so by using that space in the redo, they took the kitchen from a medium-sized room to a large-sized space. “We took a corner pantry down and opened up a little bit of space from the living room.”

The new-and-improved kitchen is now chock full of amenities designed to lighten the load of the home cook, including a dual-fuel range, two double-drawer dishwashers, a warming drawer, a drawer microwave, a pot filler, a pullout coffee bar, two undercabinet wine refrigerators, a beverage drawer refrigerator, column refrigerator/freezer and even a hidden television. Every cabinet is organized for specific placement of kitchen items, such as utensils or dividers for pans. Even the center island is hiding some features, including a mixer cabinet and a spice holder.

The custom cabinets, featuring custom-lead glass, are done in alder, while the wine cabinet features a washed-gray glaze.

“There are four different finishes on the cabinetry, between the stain, the black island, the gray glaze and the white glaze on the perimeter,” said Board, adding that this gives the kitchen an eclectic look, though the finishes all work together. In addition, the island countertop is smooth, honed granite with marble around the perimeter, and the wide-planked distressed floor is pine.

The beverage bar was intended as a place for extra storage for glassware, as well as a place to hold wine and other beverages. The client requested a cabinet piece that resembled a furniture buffet more so than just built-in cabinets.

"By pulling the cabinet in from each side wall and adding other 'furniture' features, we were able to create a buffet look with very customized storage features," said Board.

One challenge was finding the perfect range hood. "We wanted a focal point that wouldn't take over the room," she added. "If it was too big, it would eat up the room; too small, and it would look wimpy."

They ultimately settled on a custom-made, 7-ft.-tall by 5-ft.-wide antique nickel range hood, which Board feels is spectacular. She added a good amount of recessed lighting and LED undercounter strip lighting and says the hand-blown Italian glass on the pendants looks like it is shining through a prism and creates a fantasy glow. The wooden ceiling

beams overlooking the kitchen provide just the right amount of country to complement the fresh, modern look.

#### Master Bath

Like the kitchen, the homeowners spared no expense in creating a dream master bathroom. The challenge in this space was that it was an odd shape – with high-vaulted ceilings – making it difficult to create scale, and none of the walls could be moved. The tub was too high and the shower too small – both overall out of scale with the rest of the room.

To make the room features look less awkward size-wise, Board placed two rectangular 60-in.-high mirrors above each of the two sinks. Instead of lights above the mirror, she put in sconces and added recessed lighting to achieve the illusion of proportion.

All of the custom cabinetry is in butternut wood with mega storage space. A freestanding cabinet sits majestically on the travertine countertops, which surround the porcelain sinks.

The new space is light and airy with a monochromatic color scheme: beige on beige on beige. To break up the colors a bit, Board used different patterns in the mosaic tile flooring and went for a textured look by adding a thick basketweave marble to the wainscoting. The room is toasty from head to toe with its heated floors, pastoral wood beams and chandelier on the ceiling.

The window above the freestanding, gleaming white tub is the original window, which was sanded and given a new paint job.

"We wanted something at the tub that would almost be a piece of art but not take up any space, so we had a woman who does fabulous work make leaded glass windows," said Board, who further explained that the leaded glass sits in front of the window behind it like an overlay.

"The bathroom will be just as pretty 10 years from now; I think we nailed it," she added.

#### Lavish Laundry

The former laundry room was a little disorganized and became a room that collected clutter. The owners wanted more storage and a better use of the space to display her collection of green pottery, as well as a built-in dog door.

The custom white cabinets are similar to the kitchen cabinets, though with a different door style and hardware. The soapstone countertops are adorned by marble basketweave tile wainscoting. An ornate yet functional birdcage chandelier illuminates the room, but perhaps the pièce de

Custom white cabinets and a basketweave tile envelop the laundry room, which also serves as a space to showcase the homeowners' collection of green pottery and provides ample storage options.



A zero-entry shower with a bench and a handheld showerhead is a universal design element that will give the homeowners added security should they choose to age in place in this home.



résistance in the laundry room is the elegant faucet in a polished nickel finish against the farmhouse, deep-fluted sink.

"That faucet is a piece of jewelry," said Board. "It has a vintage French look about it; I absolutely love it."

Some hidden features include a pullout trash unit and an ironing board that comes out of a drawer. A dog door was installed next to the door that leads to the garage.

"This room is darling. I want to hang out here," said Board. "They had cocktails in the laundry room one night because it is so cute."

#### Final Thoughts

From start to finish, the entire project was a joy for Board, who had an excellent working relationship with her clients. Working with clients with great taste and appreciation for quality materials made the renovation process smooth sailing, though Board advises to keep copious notes.

She also advised that designers should be sure that everything to be used and installed in the project – from lighting to tile to appliances, etc. – is ordered before renovation starts to prevent any lag time and to keep the project moving forward on schedule.

"We want everyone to be on schedule so that we are never waiting, and if something is significantly backordered, it gives us and the client time to decide if it will affect the schedule or if they are willing to wait for that specific item," added Board. "It allows the job to move forward very successfully. I believe that is the single-most important thing you can do to keep your jobs moving – especially on a job of this scale." ■

#### SOURCES

**Designer:** Christie Board, CKD, CBD, Board by Board; **Photographer:** Bella Vita Photography

#### Kitchen

**Backsplash:** Bianco Venafino Arabesque & Subway; **Beverage Drawers, Freezer Columns, Refrigerator & Wine Refrigerator:** Sub-Zero; **Cabinets:** Showcase Custom Cabinets; **Countertops:** Statuary Extra Honed Marble, Blizzard Granite Honed, Calcutta Mist Honed (purchased from Arizona Tile, fabricated by Unique Granite) & Reclaimed Wood; **Drawer Dishwasher:** Fisher & Paykel; **Drawer Microwave, Range & Warming Drawer:** Wolf; **Hardware:** Top Knobs; **Island Faucet:** Moen; **Lighting:** Tower Lighting; **Main Sink Faucet & Pot Filler:** Danze; **Range Hood:** Texas Light Smith; **Sink:** Signature Hardware

#### Master Bath

**Bathtub:** Meit by Tomlin; **Cabinets:** Showcase Custom Cabinets; **Countertops:** Carmargo Travertine; **Lighting:** Quorum; **Mirrors:** Ballard Design; **Shower Fixtures, Tub Filler & Vanity Faucets:** Brizo; **Sinks:** Mirabelle; **Tile:** Diana Royal Marble & Gaia Waterjet Marble (purchased from Facings of America); **Wainscot:** Crema Marfil Basketweave

#### Laundry Room

**Cabinets:** Showcase Custom Cabinets; **Countertops:** Soapstone; **Faucet:** Waterstone; **Hardware:** Top Knobs; **Sink:** Signature Hardware; **Tile:** Crema Marfil Basketweave and Crema Marfil Oggee